



NEWSLETTER



Madera County FSA Office

**November/December
2010**

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

FSA

Program Technicians
Debbie Cook, Audrey
Hibdon, Nancy Talley

NRCS Staff, Jennie
Johnson, Dennis Dudley,
Gary Ford, Sharyl Feit

Disaster Assistance Programs / Risk Management

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. Contact your nearest FSA office for specific deadlines.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail and other natural causes.

For more information and specific NAP crop deadlines, contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Retirement for Audrey Hibdon

After 25 years of service to Madera



County's farmers, Audrey Hibdon is retiring from the Farm Service Agency. Come by the FSA office on December 3rd for an open house

between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm to wish her well in her retirement.



Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

This year the candidates nominated for the COC board seat from Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA 2) are: Ryan Jones (Incumbent) and Joe Galvan. Both nominee's were born and raised in Madera County and have farmed here all of their lives.

Eligible voters for this election are those producers who reside or farm in LAA-2 which is that area South of Avenue 14 and West of Hwy 99, to the county line.

If you live or farm in this area and have not received a ballot in the mail and want to vote in this election, please contact the Madera County FSA office.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):
 - a) an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
 - b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper;
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of funding status.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Disclosure Form Needed by IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to

IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form", or CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

NAP Deadline

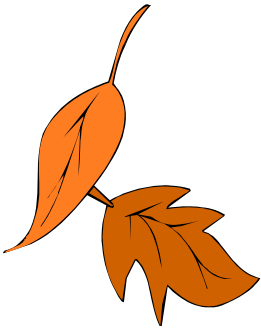
Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops and note that for some disaster assistance programs, crop insurance or NAP coverage is required for all crops on the farm. .

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.



Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.



Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.



Jugdev Singh Gill September 15, 1953 to September 2, 2010



Jugdev "Dave" Gill was a Madera County resident for over 30 years. Dave first came to the Madera County Committee in an "advisor" capacity in 2001.

In 2004 he was elected as a full member of the Madera County Committee by the growers in his administrative area where he remained till his passing.

Whenever Madera County was subjected to severe weather conditions, without fail Dave would call me to go with him into the field to check the effect the weather had on certain crops. I will miss our field visits and I will miss my friend Dave.

Joe Grillo,

County Executive Director

The Madera County FSA Staff and Madera County Committee (COC) will miss Dave. Our deepest Sympathy goes out to his family.

Dates to Remember

Dec 1	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for grazing.
Dec 15	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on fruit and nut tree crops
Dec 24	Holiday Office Closed
Dec 31	Holiday Office Closed

HAPPY HOLIDAY



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